25th March 1947]

THE HON. SRI M. BAKTHAVATSALAM :—" There is no proposal at present to construct any railway line in the Nellore district; the question of speeding up these lines does not therefore arise."

SRI L. SUBBARAMA REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, when it was surveyed and stones fixed did not the Government feel that the line will pay? "

THE HON. SRI M. BAKTHAVATSALAM :—" These lines were considered to be unremunerative ones and in regard to financing them, Railway Board require a guarantee from the district boards against loss in the actual working of the lines. As the district board did not give the guarantee, these have not been pursued further."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that Nellore district is very badly served by railway communications and the opening of these lines in the particular area is absolutely necessary? "

THE HON. SRI M. BAKTHAVATSALAM :—" I have been quite well aware of the paucity of railway communication in the Nellore district. Sir, we shall again take up the matter."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR. PRESIDENT.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce that His Excellency the Governor-General has withheld his assent to the Madras Trade Disputes Adjudication (Temporary Provision) Bill, 1946, passed by the Council on the 12th day of September 1946 and the Press Communiqué No. 13, Public (Information and Publicity) Department, dated the 19th March 1947, has been placed on the table of the House."

III.—PRESENTATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1946-47.

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—"[a] Mr. President, I beg to present the Demands for Grants for further expenditure and Detailed Supplementary Estmates thereof for the year 1946-47.

" I am sure, hon. Members have been supplied with copies of Demands for Grants for further expenditure."

IV.—DISCUSSION *RE* SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" May I bring to your notice, Sir, that the Madras District Municipalities (Amendment) Bill with the report of the Select Committtee is likely to be taken up for discussion in the other House on the 27th instant. That will come up before this House on 28th or 29th, and it is necessary that the Bill should become law before the end of this month. So some time has to be provided for it to be discussed in 3-15 p.m.

[a] Printed as Appendix on page 431 infra.

[Sri K. Madhava Menon] [25th March 1947

this House. On the 29th instant supplementary estimates will be discussed here, 30th is Sunday and there is only one day, 31st. So some time must be found by adjustment for the discussion of that Bill."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Are you appealing to me or to the Leader of the Opposition." (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" My appeal to you means appeal to all members of the House and the Leader of the Opposition." (Laughter.)

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister does not know when he will be able to get that Bill through the other House. It will be very inconvenient for us to come here and go without doing any work. Therefore, I request, Mr. President, to ascertain definitely whether it will be ready for us here on the 28th or 29th instant. To my knowledge it is a controversial matter and as far as my party is concerned, the Muslim Leaguers, they are going to oppose it tooth and nail, and I am afraid it may not come up here on the 28th."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" From what I know, the Muslim League has opposed it and discussed it at great length when it was introduced, and so I do not think there will be much scope for discussion now, and I am sure the Bill will be here on the 29th. The Hon. the Speaker has consulted the leaders of parties and they have agreed to sit on the 27th after 5 p.m."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" It has become a custom for a Bill to be passed through the other House on one evening and throw it at our face here the next morning. We have on several occasions brought this to the notice of Government and you, Mr. President, have been trying to protect our rights. This time also the Government propose to do the same old thing. So, I request you, Mr. President, at least to give us 48 hours to read and understand the Bill."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" As a member of this House I know everything that the hon. Member has said. And he can expect me also certainly to protect the rights and privileges of this House as sacredly as he wants the President to do. But whatever may have been the conditions in the past, this is a special occasion, as we want to have this Bill passed into law before 31st March 1947. We cannot continue the nominated councils beyond the 31st March. You must have all already read in the papers the circumstances under which we could not bring this Bill earlier. So I make an appeal to members on the other side to realise that it is due to circumstances beyond our control this has come. So in this particular case I make a special appeal that we have to bring this Bill with no idea of overriding the rights and privileges of this House."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" As Government hold the view that members of this House are so clever that they do not want any preparation, I suggest we can meet on the 29th."

25th March 1947]

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Can I take it that the Bill will be ready on the 28th instant? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" At least it can be presumed it will be ready."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Doctor knows he cannot proceed on presumptions. (Laughter.) If you can get it through on 28th there, we can request hon. Members to allow it to be taken up here on the 28th."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The 30th instant is Sunday; so there is only one day, 31st."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" So you must make all efforts to influence Muslim League friends to allow you to get through the Bill before 28th."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" So I would suggest—I do respect the feelings of the Opposition here—if they have no objection we shall sit on Sunday next. If that is agreeable (without their privileges being infringed) we can have the Bill passed through."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Can we sit on a Sunday? Do rules allow it? "

(At this stage the rules were consulted.)

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" We can sit on a Sunday."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" There is no rule against it as far as I know."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" May I take it Christian Members have no objection? "

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" As this Bill is a good one we can sit on Sunday next."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—" I would like to avoid a Sunday as far as possible."

MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—" Will it be possible to meet at 11 a.m. on that day? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Yes, at 11 o'clock, if it comes to a question of sitting on Sunday."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—" This is God's work, as Mr. Suryanarayana Rao says. And so as a special case we can sit on a Sunday, if it comes to that."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" I would suggest we would begin on 29th evening and continue on Sunday, if necessary."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I bring to your notice, Sir, that on Sunday next most of the members of the Muslim League will not be present at Madras; because there is an engagement for the leaders of the Muslims of the Assembly, myself and Mr. Ibrahim elsewhere. We are all going to Tanjore for the celebration of Prophet's birthday. We will not be present here on Sunday."

[25th March 1947

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" We have already arranged for that, hoping Sunday will not be a working day for the Council. So if it comes to the Council sitting on Sunday it will be depriving us of an opportunity of discussing this Bill."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" So we would suggest that we sit as long as possible on Saturday, the 29th instant."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" On the 29th evening we will have to catch the train."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, you can catch the train at night.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I would suggest, let them come prepared to catch the train from here. (Laughter.)

" The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on 29th March 1947."

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS